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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9310
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0866
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0799
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0504
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1912
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0176
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1772
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 0304
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 0293
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 0170
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1282
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0815
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4577

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [CVIS](#) [ETRD](#) [BM](#) [IT](#)
SUBJECT: BURMA: ITALY AGREES EU-ASEAN SUMMIT IS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE

REF: A. SECSTATE 146862

[1](#)B. 148530

Classified By: A/Pol M/C Gabriel Escobar, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Poloff delivered Ref A and B demarches to MFA Coordinator for Multilateral Affairs in Southeast Asia Anacleto Felicani October 26. Poloff shared information on U.S. sanctions against Burma and urged Italy to use the November 22 EU-ASEAN Summit to continue to put pressure on Burma, and to exclude its participation or insist that it be represented by low-level officials.

[1](#)2. (C) Felicani said that Italy shared U.S. concerns about human rights and democracy in Burma and has been an outspoken critic of the junta's recent crackdown. Felicani, who was the Italian ambassador to Malaysia until last year, recently returned from a trip to Singapore, and said his conclusion was that ASEAN members would not agree to disinvite Burma from the upcoming summit. However, he believed that the event could still be used to spotlight Burma's human rights abuses, press for political dialogue, and support UN Burma Envoy Ibrahim Gambari, and said that Italy would do its part.

[1](#)3. (C) Felicani said it was important that ASEAN countries hear from the international community that if they do not hold Burma accountable for its human rights record, it would seriously damage their standing in the eyes of the rest of the world. Felicani said he thought the USG could exert greater pressure on Singapore, as ASEAN chair, and India, both of whom he thought held considerable sway over Burma and could be influenced by the U.S., and urged us to continue to press those countries to act.
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